

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 52 of 1875.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

The Week ending the 25th December, 1875.

[The *Suhrid* of the 7th December draws the attention of the postal authorities to the inconvenience of the inhabitants of Muktagachá, which is a large and wealthy town, by the careless manner in which business is done at the local post office, and from the fact that postage stamps are not always procurable there.

SUMMARY,  
December 7th, 1875.

2. The *Bhārat Sangskārah* of the 10th December thus comments on the programme of Municipal Government for Calcutta announced by Sir Richard Temple at a late meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council. It is but proper that, as a preliminary step to granting the elective franchise, Government should reserve to itself the right of nominating a certain portion of the entire body of the Justices of the Peace. But this number must not be a large one, for that will nullify the power of the representatives of the people. It should never be allowed to exceed a fourth of the entire number of the Justices, as otherwise the independence, rights and privileges of the people will not have sufficient scope for development. From thánás inhabited by Europeans, it is proposed to elect a fourth or even a third part of the Commissioners, thus making it evident that Government is desirous of appointing Europeans alone to the municipality. This is the more to be feared, as it is almost a fact that in British India one European is equal to ten natives. So that in the event of a fourth part of the Justices being Europeans, the whole power will be practically in their hands. Again, being afraid lest, in thánás in which natives are numerically larger, Europeans be not elected, Sir Richard has proposed that in such thánás all the Commissioners should be Europeans. This is also wrong in our opinion. It would be sufficient for his purpose, if the appointment of one European Commissioner from each one of these thánás were only provided for. It is, moreover, a mistake on the part of Government to suppose that natives will not elect Europeans at all. They will rather be disposed to elect a liberal-minded European like Mr. Roberts than even one of their own race. Europeans, if they do not entirely overlook the rights of natives by being blinded by self-interest, will doubtless command respect. In short, Government should, without making any distinction of race, seek impartially to benefit the public. The number of Commissioners for any tháná should be made proportional to the number of inhabitants in the same. If the right of election be based on the amount of rates paid by the citizens, Rs. 10, and not Rs. 20, should be fixed as the minimum sum to entitle a rate-payer to the elective franchise; for if the latter sum were fixed upon, the privilege would be practically enjoyed by the well-to-do classes alone. It would be better if the term of office of the Commissioners elected, whether by Government or by the people, were four

SUMMARY  
SANGSKARAH,  
December 10th, 1875.



years. For, as Sir Richard Temple has truly remarked, public elections should not be unnecessarily frequent.

DEHAT  
SANGHARAK,  
December 10th, 1875.

3. We give *in extenso* the following article headed "Loyalty from Fear" from the same paper:—Every sensible Government will make the press free for the benefit of both itself and the people. For as the latter on the one hand can by this means fearlessly ventilate their grievances, so on the other Government may thus be informed of its own shortcomings and seek to rectify them. Man is generally blind to his own faults, which must be shown him by another. Government also, though not synonymous with one individual, is generally guided by one. This is especially true of the Government of India, of which it would be no exaggeration to say that it is the rule of one person. Its ruler has despotic power. He is a representative but in name! The anxiety and care of the party he represents for the proper administration of India is strikingly shown at every sitting of Parliament! Now, this individual being a man, is consequently not above the errors to which humanity is liable. Again, the members of his Council not unfrequently, either from an excess of courtesy or from fear of losing their appointments, second him even in his errors. This may not injure them much; but those who have to bear the consequences of their errors cannot thus remain quiet. Under a despotic Government, they are of course forced to be silent; but to a Government that is prepared to learn of its shortcomings, they represent them without reserve. The Government of India, though conducted by one person, is not the domain of despotic power. It is liberal and exalted. There is no need of adducing any proofs for convincing a native of India that its chief object is to do good to its subjects, for every one is fully aware of its noble and beneficent purpose. But then it too falls into errors through the errors of individuals, which, however, it is always prepared to be informed of. Hence the freedom of the press. The newspapers being the mouth-pieces of the country, are alone able to give publicity to all cases of oppression. Through Lord Mayo's faults, a number of highly injurious measures were about to be perpetrated in the country, and the newspapers did not fail to loudly proclaim them to the public. Lord Mayo was blind to his own faults, and did not like to hear them told him, and in consequence was resolved to take away the liberty of the newspaper press. Strongly swayed by despotism, he was not unprepared even to bring disgrace on the British Government. By wiping out many errors of his predecessor, Lord Northbrook has doubtless added to the reputation of Government. But it grieves us to remark that even he is about to retire bearing a number of serious faults. It was not proper after raising his hopes to disappoint Mulharrao, and eventually to depose him. The annals of his administration will continue to be disfigured by this ineffaceable blot for ever. Nor has it been less disgraceful to pass the Tariff Act in secret. It is only because the people of India are weak and dumb that he has been able to escape; a serious convulsion would have ensued if it had been in England or elsewhere.

We are compelled to advert to-day to another serious fault committed by him. The three Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras are all under him, and he is responsible for their good government. The Governors of Bombay and Madras are doubtless partially independent; but he alone has the power of rectifying any errors that may be committed by them. His interposition alone can check their oppressions. It was but the other day that Sir Philip Wodehouse, the Governor of Bombay, returned the honors of the invited Rajahs and Sirdars subject to him by thrusting them



all into the Secretariat rooms!! The Native Princes and Sirdars have become mere toys in the hands of the British, as the Kings and Emperors of Europe were in the hands of the First Napoleon. They are quietly and promptly submissive to any orders that may be passed on them by any body. The Governor-General, Governors, or even Residents apart, even a common Eurasian speaks insolently to them. They are fully aware of the power of the British "bayonets," and being loyal from fear, quietly submit to all oppressions. Does the British Ráj know that the whole of India at one time trembled before the power of the ancestors of these Princes? While Europe and other countries were enveloped in a profound intellectual torpor, they were blessed with learning, honors, wealth, and civilization. Compared even with the middle ages of India, the civilization of Europe is as it were but a thing of yesterday!! But though our Princes have now nothing of their former wealth and power, still the pride of descent rules in their hearts as much as ever. Sir P. Wodehouse is not perhaps aware of the intensity of the wrong he has thus inflicted by wounding this pride. The *Mirror* has truly remarked that he would not have dared to treat in this manner even the Portuguese Governor of the petty possessions at Goa, or the French Ruler of the insignificant Settlements at Pondicherry. The Princes came to his palace to do him honor, but were ordered to attend at his office in order that he might honor them in return! Perhaps in the annals of no other nation in the world is there recorded such a strange method of returning honors. It is to be observed with regret that Lord Northbrook also has similarly insulted the Native Princes collectively, with merely this difference that while Sir P. Wodehouse did the act without even condescending to explain its necessity, the Viceroy has satisfied them by vouchsafing an explanation!!! Busy in superintending the preparations for the reception of the Prince, he had not sufficient time to accord them a becoming reception!! And so it follows, he was obliged to insult them!!! Strange reasoning!!! They must have been doubtless satisfied with it, for what else had they it in their power to be? They could not expect higher honors at the hands of the Prince after what they had received from their Provincial Governor and the Governor-General. Hence they have been obliged to seem satisfied even with that, and have shown their loyalty. Lord Northbrook might well ask whether this loyalty is sincere or whether it proceeds from a fear of the "bayonets." Any fault of the Prince in connection with this matter might well be excused, he being totally unacquainted with the manners and customs of the people of this country; but that a sagacious Statesman like Lord Northbrook should be guilty of such a reprehensible act is a matter that cannot be easily overlooked. The hasty and abrupt departure of the Ráná of Odeypore from the place of reception at Bombay has strikingly shown how far this treatment has been gratifying to the Princes. It is true that this affair has been sought to be explained away, but the true cause of the departure can easily be imagined. The Ráná himself, in the face of the late affair at Jodhpore, may not have the courage to speak out his mind. Hence Native Princes have no other resources left them but that of showing a loyalty which comes of fear.

We are not disposed now to refer to the recent correspondence of the Indian Foreign Office with Sir Sálár Jung. We only hope that Lord Northbrook will be liberal enough to listen to our timely suggestions, and to use means, while the Prince is in India, to enhance the honor and pleasure of the discontented and dishonored native chiefs, and to induce feelings of true loyalty in their breasts.]



RAJSHANKAR  
SAMACHAR,  
December 10th, 1875.

4. A correspondent of the *Bájaháye Samáchar* of the 10th December complains of the utter inefficiency of the village chowkeedars. These men are more ready to collect their dues from the villagers than to protect their life and property. The attention of the rural gentlemen, who compose the *Pancháyets*, is drawn to this deplorable state of things.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,  
December 12th, 1875.

5. The *Howrah Hitakari* of the 12th December asks Government to appoint educated natives, who have passed the University and other recognized examinations, to all offices under it. It is really unjust to entertain men who do not possess any certificates in preference to those whose merits are presumably known.

HINDU BANJIKÁ,  
December 15th, 1875.

6. The *Hindu Banjiká* of the 15th December asks the Legislature, now that the Municipal Bill is before the Bengal Council, to add a new section to it, securing the liberty of the Brahmini bulls (which were formerly so numerous in villages, but which have now almost disappeared, from their being employed to draw municipal scavenger carts,) for purposes of breeding. These strong and well-fed animals, having been once used for ceremonial purposes, were afterwards allowed to rove about without any molestation from the villagers, who always regarded them with a superstitious awe. They, however, served one important object, the propagation of a healthy and robust breed of kine. The villagers are now dependent upon the weak, ill-fed, and and jaded animals, which are employed in drawing the plough. The breed has deteriorated in consequence, a circumstance which is extremely injurious to an agricultural country like India.

BURRISAL  
VARTAVANA,  
December 15th, 1875.

7. The *Burrisal Vartavana* of the 15th December is highly gratified by reading the recent resolutions of the Bengal Government on the suppression of dacoities in the district. The Editor, however, fears that the activity of the police, already notorious for its oppressions, roused by this rebuke, will prove a scourge rather than a blessing to the people. Sir Richard Temple nevertheless deserves our gratitude for his able and earnest endeavours to do them good.

VISHWA DUT,  
December 15th, 1875.

8. The *Vishwa Dút* of the 15th December laments the want of physique in the Bengalis, and complains that Government, though highly liberal in its professions, is not so in its practice. Bengalis have been, and continue to be, carefully excluded from the military service.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 16th, 1875.

9. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* of the 16th December observes in reference to the approaching visit of the Prince of Wales to Calcutta, that the people should never lose this opportunity for making him interested in them and their affairs. The British Sovereign, though not an absolute ruler, has still considerable power to do good to his subjects, if only he pleases to do so. In this respect, his pleasure is of more importance to the people of India than the pleasure or displeasure of short-term Viceroys or of Secretaries of State, coming into power with the party they belong to. We should not therefore fail to lay before him our wants and grievances. Let a monster meeting of the citizens be held for this purpose on the Calcutta maidan.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA.

10. The same paper adverts to the difficulties of Government in being called on to gratify three different parties, whose interests are wholly antagonistic to each other. These are the Anglo-Indians, the natives of India, and lastly the Eurasians. Hitherto the contention was kept up between the first two parties only. In this keen and unequal competition between the natives of the soil and their conquerors, Government has almost always, both from inclination and from a fear of the public opinion of England, lent all



its weight to favor the latter, while the rights and privileges of the former have been systematically encroached upon and violated. But now a third, and the most dangerous of all the parties, has appeared on the scene and threatens to take away the bread of the children of the soil. These are the Eurasians. A memorial on their behalf has been forwarded to the Viceroy, which, if acted on, will be productive of the most injurious consequences to the natives.

11. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of Government to the inconvenience and loss to which the rice dealers in the port of Chittagong are subjected from the unfairness and extortions of the English and Bengali merchants carrying on business there. In all dealings with the former, the latter employ (1), weights and measures which are above the legal ones; (2), make a delay in the payments, which are invariably less than the prices originally stipulated for; and (3), countenance the extortions of their underlings. These grievances have now assumed formidable dimensions, and unless redressed at this stage, will doubtless ruin the present flourishing rice trade of this port.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
December 17th, 1875.

12. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* of the 17th December asks Government, in order to facilitate the work of registration, and to bring it near every man's door, to order the rural sub-registrars to make tours, at intervals, through the pergunnahs under their jurisdiction for this purpose. This arrangement would be much better than the present one, under which the sub-registry officers are located in a particular place.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

13. The *Grāmavartā Prakāśhikā* of the 18th December dwells in a lengthy editorial on the administration of Lord Northbrook, which, according to this paper, shows signs of vigor and weakness almost at the same time. His refusal to prohibit exportation of rice, when the famine was raging in Bengal, and his successful exertions to meet the extraordinary demand for that grain, were strokes of a vigorous policy. But the deposition of the late Guicowar, the recent correspondence of Government with Sir Salar Jung relative to the attendance of the young Nizam at Bombay to do homage to the Prince of Wales, and, lastly, the treaty with Holkar on the subject of coining money in his territories, have caused grave dissatisfaction to the public, and therefore cannot but be regarded as betraying a weakness of administration.

GRĀMĀVARTĀ  
PRĀKĀSHIKĀ,  
December 18th, 1875.

14. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 18th December complains of the unsatisfactory relations which exist between the Anglo-Indians and the natives of India. The latter are frequently ill-treated and abused by the former; while no redress against the offenders can be generally had in the courts of law. There is almost always a miscarriage of justice whenever the case happens to take place between a native and an Anglo-Indian.

HINDU HITOSHINI,  
December 18th, 1875.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 25th December, 1875.

R. J. ELLIS,

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.



*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
25th December, 1875.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágachá, Mymensingh	Weekly	7th December.
2	"Rájsháhye Samáchar" ...	Karachmárá, Rájsháhye...	Ditto	10th ditto.
3	"Bhárat Sangskarak" ...	Harinávi, 24 Pergunnahs	Ditto	10th ditto.
4	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Betar, Howrah	Ditto	12th ditto.
5	"Burrisál Vártávaha" ...	Burrisál	Ditto	15th ditto.
6	"Vishwa Dát" ...	Kálighát, Calcutta	Ditto	15th ditto.
7	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájsháhye	Ditto	15th ditto.
8	"Dacca Darshak" ...	Dacca	Ditto	16th ditto.
9	"Amrita Bázár Patriká" ...	Calcutta	Ditto	16th ditto.
10	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	Ditto	17th ditto.
11	"Burdwan Pracháriká" ...	Burdwan	Ditto	17th ditto.
12	"Grámvártá Prakashiká" ...	Comercolly	Ditto	18th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca	Ditto	18th ditto.
14	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah	Ditto	19th ditto.
15	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	Ditto	19th ditto.
16	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	Ditto	20th ditto.
17	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto	Bi-Weekly	20th ditto.
18	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto	Daily	13th to 21st December.
19	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	Ditto	20th December.
20	"Bangavidyá Prakashiká" ...	Ditto	Ditto	20th ditto.
21	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto	Weekly	18th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.







